South Carolina Family Law Practice for Paralegals

Columbia, SC - Friday, April 24, 2020

Assist with family law case intake
Draft pleadings and assist with motion practice
Obtain and evaluate financial information
Learn about assisting with child custody disputes

Assisting with Family Law Case Intake
R. Creel
Performing conflicts checks
Preparing engagement letter, opening file
Collecting information

Preparing Pleadings and Assisting with Motion Practice
J. Howard III
Preparing initial pleadings
Requesting temporary relief
Preparing for the temporary orders hearing
Preparing the temporary orders

Obtaining and Evaluating Financial Information
C. Warner
Identifying relevant information on assets, debts, income and expenses
Obtaining financial information
• Using financial information questionnaires
• Using interrogatories, requests for production, deposition testimony, private investigators
• Valuing assets
Evaluating the information you have obtained
Working with accountants and financial experts
Preparing financial statements

Assisting with Child Custody and Visitation Issues
D. Butcher
Current status of custody law in South Carolina
Obtaining relevant information
• Client interview, custody questionnaires, authorizations for disclosure, using formal discovery
Working with guardian ad litem
Working with experts
Drafting and reviewing parenting plans

Enforcing and Modifying Family Law Orders and Decrees
S. Hawkins
Implementing divorce decrees and orders
• Preparing and filing the decree
• Preparing other necessary documents
• Enforcing judgments and orders
Modifying decrees and orders
• Determining which parts of a decree or order are subject to modification, deciding when to seek modification
Assisting in modification actions

Handling Ethical Issues in Family Law Practice
R. McLean
Complying with rules of professional responsibility and ethics guidelines for attorneys and paralegals
Avoiding conflicts of interest
Maintaining client confidentiality
Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law
Working with the secretive or dishonest client
Handling allegations of abuse or neglect
Zealous vs. over-zealous representation
Fee agreements, retainers, and collection of unpaid fees

Learning Objectives

You’ll be able to:

Perform conflict checks and assist with initial client interviews.
Prepare initial pleadings and temporary orders.
Identify relevant information on assets, debts, income, and expenses.
Discuss the current status of custody law in South Carolina.
Assist with the drafting and implementation of divorce decrees and orders.
Comply with the rules of professional responsibility and ethics guidelines for attorneys and paralegals.

Getting tips on enforcement and modification of family law orders and decrees
Identify ethical issues in family law practice

Continuing Education Credits
This seminar offers paralegals 6.5 CLE hours, including 1.0 ethics hour.
NALA Approved
NFPA Approval Pending.
Rebecca Creel is the founder of Creel Family Law. She is a native of Hemingway, South Carolina, and an alumnae of Converse College. She received her J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007. She is also a graduate of the Houston Family Law Trial Institute. She limits her practice exclusively to complex marital and other domestic litigation. She is a certified family court mediator and guardian ad litem. Ms. Creel has been named as a member the Columbia Business Monthly Legal Elite of the Midlands in the area of family law for the past five consecutive years and was honored in 2015 by South Carolina Supreme Court’s Commission on the Profession as the G. Dewey Ochser Jr., Mentor of the Year. She has been selected to teach and speak at the South Carolina Bar convention, the Family Court Bench/Bar, Family Law Essentials, and the SCU Annual Convention. Ms. Creel has also assisted in drafting publications such as the Ask-A-Lawyer Reference Manual and Low School for Non Lawyers on family law issues. She serves on the editorial board of the 5th Edition of Marital Litigation in South Carolina.

John W. Howard III is a sole practitioner who has been an attorney for over 45 years. He focuses his practice in the areas of domestic litigation, domestic mediation and arbitration and residential real estate matters. Mr. Howard is admitted to the United States Supreme Court, the South Carolina Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the United States Court of Appeals. He is also certified as a family court mediator and circuit court arbitrator. Mr. Howard earned his J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Carrie Warner, a lawyer at law, is known as HalfMoon's author. She is a very successful litigator and successful complex cases. She was part of the legal team that made history in 2014 when their clients prevailed on their challenge to South Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage, with the ultimate decision made by the U.S. District Court. Carrie Warner is considered an excellent in the family, probate, civil and appellate court systems. She is regularly featured in statewide publications, at conferences, and in the media. She also serves as a volunteer for the American Bar Association's legal services program for U.S. military service members.

Deborah J. Butcher is a founding attorney of the Camden Law Firm. P.A. Mrs. Butcher has been in private practice since 2002 and has extensive experience with both criminal, family, and civil practice. Her Family law practice includes separation, divorce, custody, visitation, support matters, mediation, and the modification of custody and visitation orders. She has also worked under a grant from the United States Department of Justice to provide representation for domestic abuse victims.

Suzanne L. Hawkins is the owner of Hawkins Law, where she practices in the fields of family law, LLC defense, and custody and special needs. Her family law practice includes separation, divorce, custody, visitation, support matters, mediation, and the modification of custody and visitation orders. Her family law practice includes separation, divorce, alimony, custody, and visitation, child support, spousal support, property division, adult and minor names changes), employment and discrimination matters, workers' compensation, estate planning, probate, and personal injury matters. Although she continues to practice in these areas, the majority of her current cases involve family law. Ms. McLean earned a bachelor of science degree, cum laude, from Georgia State University and a J.D. degree from Georgia State University College of Law. She has been certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court as a mediator in family and probate law.

Robin R. McLean is a member at McCutchen McLean, LLC. She has practiced in many areas including domestic and family law (separation, divorce, child custody, visitation and child support, spousal support, property division, adult and minor names changes), employment and discrimination matters, workers' compensation, estate planning, probate, and personal injury matters. Although she continues to practice in these areas, the majority of her current cases involve family law. Ms. McLean earned a bachelor of science degree, cum laude, from Georgia State University and a J.D. degree from the South Carolina School of Law in 2007. She is also a graduate of the Houston Law School for Non-Lawyers.

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